

The Darned



ENTERTAINMENT

FORTNIGHTLY

NO. 3

FREE!

JULY 23rd



TRENDS

While it is neither a nationwide craze nor a fast-buck fad, cowpunk is certifiably one thing: the latest musical genre to ride into town.

If cowpunk were a person, he would undoubtedly be tall, dark and mohawked, a friendly stranger who shoots up the bad guys and charms the women-folk. There would be one problem, though; it would be hard to tell where he came from, never mind where he was going.

Certainly the term *cowpunk* can conjure up some interesting visual and musical imagery — like a hardcow band blitzing through bar chord Hank Williams as their dedicated followers, dressed in chaps and spurs, circled nearby in a fast-paced thrash roundup.

For the most part, though, cowpunk seems to be long on the cow and short on the punk, a combination of country rock and western fashion, with only a small amount of hybrid inspiration.

Take *Long Gone Dead*, the latest release from American group **Rank and File**. It sounds like a cross between the Beatles and Dan Hicks and his Hot Licks. That's not to say it's a bad record — but it sure isn't punk.

Rubber Rodeo, on the other hand, sound more like cow-techno, and there is an awful lot of synthesizer on their new release. **Babe Ruth** (*The Mexican, Wells Fargo*) is the band that comes immediately to mind, and we all know what happened to them.

Then there's **Jason and the Scorchers** and **Lone Justice**, both out of Nashville. The

(continued over)

ART

The **Zeitgeist/More Angst Festival** turned out to be an incredible success during the balmy July 1st weekend. Film, music, paintings, and installations were grouped together in the urban decay of St. Henri, backdropped by the cityscape of the downtown core as seen from



Notre-Dame and Guy streets.

The art exhibit took place in a vacant storefront on Notre-Dame, a space of great ambiance and accessibility. Other works were exhibited outside as backdrops to the music and film events.

Clive Jackson's *Praise the Lowered* was one highlight of the exhibit, a beautiful '53 Merc Lowrider airbrushed in fuchsia on a map of rural Texas. It's good to see Clive taking time off from his recent passion of stand-up bass to finish this painting. His work is rarely exhibited and always inspiring.

Almost overlooked in the basement was **Christopher Dean's** ceramic skeleton sculpture, which had at least one person convinced of its authenticity. I thought the 10 in. day-glo skeleton with halo suspended above the "archeological dig" was the key to

(continued over)

INTERVIEW

In Part II of this two part interview, **CHOM's Benoit Dufresne** talks about the role of the *New Music Foundation* and college radio stations in providing a forum for new music. Interviewer: **Michael Mannix**

FL: How do *New Music Foundation* (NMF) and the *Import Hour* — shows that feature underground and obscure artists — fit into CHOM's scheme of things?

BD: Those shows help satisfy our CRTC requirement for specialized programming. I also like to think that they satisfy a small percentage of the population that is really into music.

FL: How do you select the music for NMF?

BD: It's very difficult. I get tons of imports every week at Dutchy's. I listen to as much as possible, get some recommendations. I read the music papers from Europe and the States. I try to be in touch with as many small labels in America and England as possible.

FL: In the last few weeks, you've featured local bands on the *New Faces in Rock* segment. How did that come about?

BD: I went on the radio one night and said, "Is there anybody out there who's got a decent tape?" I've been getting a whole bunch every week since.

(continued over)

MUSIC

Seven Sisters is one of the better known local alternative bands, though the group has been around in its present form for only ten months. In that time their distinctive sound has emerged as a complex, rhythm-based fusion of eclectic styles and influences. "We listen to Talking Heads, Laurie Anderson, Elvis Costello, early R&B, Al Green, Marvin Gaye..." says guitarist **Alex MacDonald**, but he has a hard time pinning down direct influences on their music.

All six members, on keyboards, guitar, sax, bass, percussion and drums, contribute to a sound that now apparently alienates some of their

(continued over)

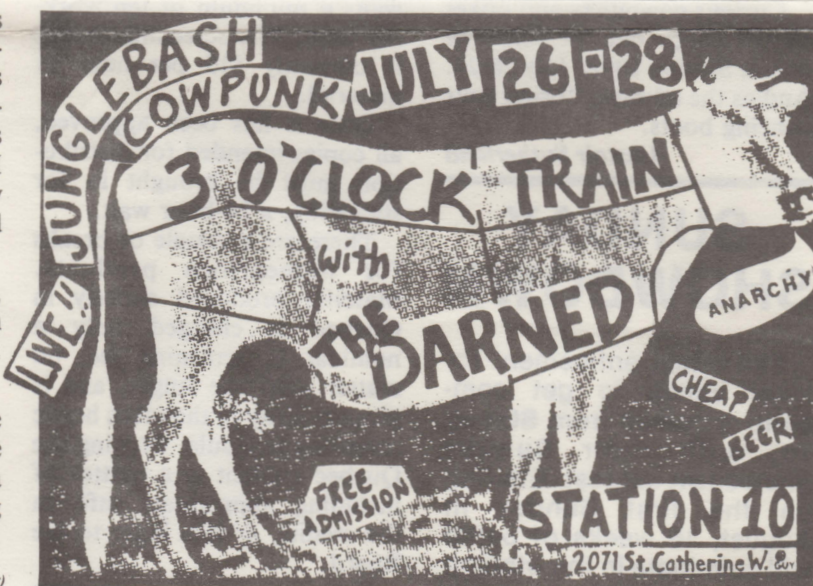
VIDEO

To distribute independent video for public viewing, it is first necessary to pay a visit to the censor board, but it's not as complicated as it may sound.

The **Quebec Film Supervisory Board's** jurisdiction covers all film and video material intended for public display. Having material cleared involves getting it screened by the Board, then having all copies officially stickered and what not, clearing it for public showing throughout the province.

In order for this to be done, one must first be registered as a distributor, a matter of filling out some forms and waiting a couple of weeks. There is no charge until new laws take ef-

(continued over)



CALENDAR

JULY 23 — AUGUST 5

CLUBS LISTED

- **Café Campus**/3315 Queen Mary Rd./735-1259
- **Cargo**/4177 St. Denis/849-4698
- **Foufounes Electriques**/97 St. Catherine E./845-5484
- **La Gare**/5801 St. Lawrence/273-0087
- **Le Grand Bock**/893 St. Catherine W./842-6562
- **Mustache**/1443 Closse/931-2575
- **Pourquoi Pas**/500 Rachel E./523-8708
- **Station 10**/2071 St. Catherine W./934-0484
- **Le Steppe**/5175 Park Ave./270-7641
- **Tatou**/3519 St. Lawrence/843-6670

MONDAY 23

- "hardcore" (call) — Cargo

TUESDAY 24

- **RANDY PETERS** (alternative) — Foufounes
- **HUGH BALL & THE MARTINIS** (alternative) — Le Steppe
- **FIRE** (metal) — Mustache

WEDNESDAY 25

- **PHIZICAL ACE** (metal) — Station 10
- **HUGH BALL & THE MARTINIS** (see Tues. 24)
- **FIRE** (see Tues. 24)
- **ROOM SERVICE** (commercial hard rock / comedy) — Le Grand Bock

THURSDAY 26

- **COWPUNK WEEKEND** with **THE DARNED** / 3 O'CLOCK TRAIN — Station 10
- **DOUBLE AGENT** (ska) — Le Steppe
- **COLD SWEAT** (commercial rock) — La Gare
- **SEVEN SISTERS** (alternative) — Tatou
- **FIRE** (see Tues. 24)
- **ROOM SERVICE** (see Wed. 25)

FRIDAY 27

- **COWPUNK WEEKEND** with **THE DARNED** / 3 O'CLOCK TRAIN (see Thur. 26)
- **DOUBLE AGENT** (see Thur. 26)
- **SEVEN SISTERS** (see Thur. 26)
- **COLD SWEAT** (see Thur. 26)
- **FIRE** (see Tues. 25)
- **ROOM SERVICE** (see Wed. 25)

SATURDAY 28

- **COWPUNK WEEKEND** with **THE DARNED** / 3 O'CLOCK TRAIN (see Thur. 26)
- **DOUBLE AGENT** (see Thur. 26)
- **SEVEN SISTERS** (see Thur. 26)
- **COLD SWEAT** (see Thur. 26)
- **FIRE** (see Tues. 24)
- **ROOM SERVICE** (see Wed. 25)

SUNDAY 29

- **Sunday Showdown** (band competition) — Station 10
- **THEATRE SHMEATRE** (theatre improv) — Le Steppe
- **FIRE** (see Tues. 24)

MONDAY 30

- "hardcore" (call) — Cargo

TUESDAY 31

- **Rock'a'tchooka** (2 bands & video / call) — Foufounes
- **GALLEON** (metal) — Mustache
- "basement band" (call) — Le Steppe

WEDNESDAY 1

- **TRANSPARENCE** (alternative) — Station 10
- "basement band" (see Tues. 31)
- **GALLEON** (see Tues. 31)
- **TROP** (commercial rock) — Le Grand Bock

THURSDAY 2

- "alternative band" (call) — Station 10
- "alternative band" (call) — Le Steppe
- **JAMES McDONALD GROUP** (commercial rock) — Tatou
- **COLD SWEAT** (commercial rock) — La Gare
- **TROP** (see Wed. 1)
- **GALLEON** (see Tues. 31)

FRIDAY 3

- "alternative band" (see Thur. 2)
- "alternative band" (see Thur. 2)
- **JAMES McDONALD GROUP** (see Thur. 2)
- **COLD SWEAT** (see Wed. 1)
- **GALLEON** (see Tues. 31)

SATURDAY 4

- "alternative band" (see Thur. 2)
- "alternative band" (see Thur. 2)
- **JAMES McDONALD GROUP** (see Thur. 2)
- **TROP** (see Wed. 1)
- **GALLEON** (see Tues. 31)

SUNDAY 5

- **Sunday Showdown** (band competition) — Station 10
- **THEATRE SHMEATRE** (theatre improv) — Le Steppe
- **GALLEON** (see Tues. 31)

RELEASES

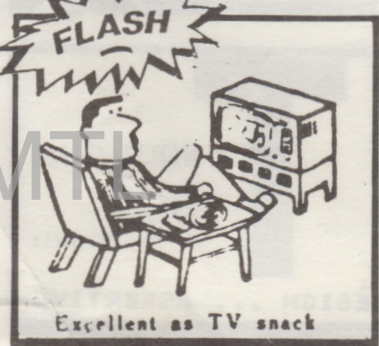
The Meat Puppets: *Meat Puppets II*

The Meat Puppets is an Arizona three-piece band that has been attracting a lot of attention with its unique sound. The first LP caught the listening public off-guard with its combination of twisting, inventive guitar and bizarre vocals. This aural blitz, courtesy of lead singer/guitarist **Curt Kirkwood**, is highly personalized and unlike other bands of the so-called 'country punk' and psychedelic extraction.

The band's second LP holds more surprises for the listener, expanding musical themes hinted at on the first LP. An odd brand of country music,

interspersed with electric sounds, makes for a startling and very listenable album. These well-crafted songs are inspired, not coldly contrived. The jolts come in all the right places, with the harder songs continuing the frenzy and sonic

(continued over)



TRENDS

(continued)

former have a semi-popular remake of Dylan's *Absolutely Sweet Marie*, while the latter are recordless but supposedly hot. Not to mention, as **Donna Lee Marsh of the Darned** says: "A whole bunch of spaghetti-western-dischord bands whose names I don't remember."

In Britain, cowpunk means bands like **Yip Yip Coyote**, who sound exactly like Bow Wow Wow, and the **Alarm**, who sound like the Clash but often wear western style shirts.

The heavily syncopated style of **Cowboys International** and **Cutting Edge** (*Lonesome Cowboy*) also pose as cowpunk, but one can only ask "Where does that leave **Merle Haggard**?"

In other words, while there are probably some excellent bands somewhere, cowpunk seems to be more of a buzzword than an actual identifiable style. It's a hint that the typical country sounds — twanging guitar licks, humble lyrics of heart-break and booze — are creeping back into vogue, proof that there is still a downhome alternative to the frightening **Alabama** and **Oak Ridge Boys**.

Two Montreal cow-bands have sprung up in the last couple of months: **The Darned** and **Three O'Clock Train**.

Three O'Clock Train member **Mac MacKenzie** (formerly of the **Pseuds**) says the group's music is "more country than punk", while the **Darned** describe themselves as "dance-a-rock-cowpunk-a-billy at its best". One thing is certain about the **Darned** — they have a great name.

Curious cowpunks and pokes should check out the drawling duo at **Station 10** on July 26-28. And as the ad says, "bring your dancing boots."

Alastair Sutherland

SUNDAY SHOWDOWN

The latest enticement for local bands to get competitive comes from **Station 10**, with their **Sunday Showdown** contest. Starting on the first Sunday in August, 16 weeks of battle will culminate in the winning band taking home a complete record production package, including studio time at **Silent Sound Studios** and the pressing of 500 7" singles. There are also cash prizes along the way, and the only criteria for entering is that bands have not released any material on vinyl. Contact **Nell** at **Station 10**, 934-0484.

ART

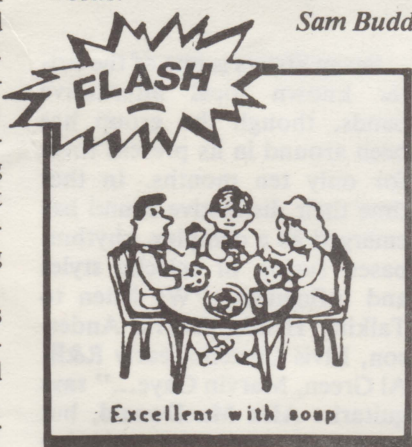
(continued)

Chris' black humor, but apparently not.

A 10 x 25 ft. collaborative mural by **Lynn Hughes**, **Ronald Smith** and **David Blatherwick** was suspended on the derelict building as a backdrop to the bands. This work, done on bright red "found" material, was the plat de resistance of the exhibition. The combined talents of these artists created an evocative piece filled with many contemporary preoccupations. It was thought provoking, energetic and enigmatic.

Other interesting works in the shows included **Eric Simon's** *I'm Aware of my Tongue*, an on-the-wall, off-the-wall painting, and **Linda Kunst's** *Bombers* and *Revealed*, two beautiful, well crafted paper-works.

Sam Budd



VIDEO

(continued)

fect in the spring of 1985.

The distributor then deposits a copy of the work to be approved with the Board and waits a minimum of ten working days. The screening charge is currently \$15 per hour of material.

Once it has been approved, all copies intended for distribution must be brought in for stickering, a 24-hour wait.

There are a couple of breaks for homegrown products. Material produced entirely in Quebec is charged only a nominal \$1 screening fee, no matter what the length, and is given priority in the often hectic screening schedule. Proving the Quebec content is a matter of including appropriate info in the credits, or in a letter to the Board.

For further details, you can contact the Board at 873-2371. It's located at 360 McGill St., room 130, Montreal, H2Y 2E9.

Keep **FLASH** informed. Drop us a line about any sort of local video material, including interviews, at P.O. Box 296, Montreal, H4A 3P6, or call 481-6009 and leave a message.

Michael Mannix

RELEASES

(continued)

variety explored in the previous LP. Yet the tempo is slower for most of the album, so more attention can be paid to the lyrics.

Drawing from personal relationships and self-reflection, **Kirkwood** explores his themes with surreal fascination. Jumbled feelings, or seemingly ordinary observations, delivered offhand or with propelling fury, are transformed with haunting breaks and refrains. It comes across as genuine and convincing. This psychic mess makes for songs which resonate after just a few listenings. One is impressed with **Kirkwood's** strength and ability as songwriter.

This band is not to be lumped with any new trends or flavors of the month. It's my bet that the **Puppets** will be attracting attention with their unique sound for a while to come. The new crop of psychedelic bands must be prismatic with envy.

Johnny Smith

PUBLISHER: Michael Mannix
EDITOR: Hilary Jones
GRAPHICS: David Sapin (consultant)
PRINTING: CUSAPRINT
P.O. Box 296
Montreal, Quebec
H4A 3P6
(514) 481-6009
Legal deposit: Bibliothèque nationale du Québec
Vol. 1 N°. 3

MUSIC

(continued)

alternative fans of old. Their powerful vocals and fairly tight instrumentals have given their music a polish considered commercial in its appeal. "A lot of people act weird because we can actually play our instruments, and we have strong vocals," comments **MacDonald**. "What are we going to do? Go back to drum machines and making noise? Everyone has a different idea of what alternative means. It's stupid."

On the recording side, **Seven Sisters** recently completed five-song demo cassette, including their "hit single" *Anna-Maria*, has been circulated in the music industry and received airplay on **CBC's** overnight show *Brave New Waves*.

The demo may soon be released as an independent retail product for cross-Canada distribution, and the band has plans for a fall album recording session. Gaining exposure is their present priority, and for the rest of the summer, that means playing as often as possible. Their next appearance is at **Tatou**, July 26-28.

"Nobody's surviving on music, but this time next year, maybe," concluded **MacDonald**.

Valerie Erdile and Michael Mannix

INTERVIEW

(continued)

FL: Has there been any reaction to the fact that you're featuring independent releases, and even some bands who have only demo tapes?

BD: Somebody phoned when I played **Terminal Sunglasses**... thought it was the worst crap they'd ever heard. I'm sure the **Terminal Sunglasses** would appreciate that somebody got that reaction from their music. There's actually been some good, positive listener reaction to some bands.

FL: Any reaction from the music industry, from **CHOM** on out?

BD: People in the music industry in Montreal are slightly lethargic. Record company people here have no idea what's going on in their own backyard. They're not even aware of what they are releasing on their own label. In Montreal, there's very little enthusiasm to break out new talent.

FL: Nobody in the music industry has contacted you because of something they heard on *New Faces in Rock*?

BD: No.

FL: College radio stations like **CRSG** and **Radio McGill** are known for their "alternative" programming, and in some cities, college stations have broadcast power so listeners have an alternative to commercial stations. Do you think there'd be an impact on **CHOM's** programming policy if Montreal college radio had broadcast power?

BD: If you could get **Radio McGill** and **CRSG** across the Island of Montreal it would be a totally different ball game. A substantial number of people would tune in to satisfy their alternative tastes.

FL: What effect would it have on commercial radio?

BD: Month by month, year by year, you would hear some bands played on **CHOM** and the other stations that never in a million years would you have thought of hearing on such highly commercial radio. There should be a proper U of M and **UQAM** radio as well. The more competition, the more outlets. There are 3 million people in this city and most of them are not aware of what's going on musically. If they were, we'd get phone calls saying, "Why haven't I heard **Dub Rifles** on your radio station?"



LE STEPPE
5175 AV. DU PARC
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TALENT!
Admission: >2.00 Sunday to Thursday.
\$3.00 Friday & Saturday
BEER \$1.95 NO TIPPING!
NO VIDEO! D.J. MIKE BISCOTT
5175 Park Ave./270-7641

CARGO 84
4177 ST. DENIS
LIVE BANDS
ALTERNATIVE
MUSIC D.J.
For Scheduling of
Events PHONE
849-4698

STATION 10 PUB
FREE!
PHIZICAL ACE AUGUST
THE DARNED
3 O'CLOCK TRAIN
JULY Sunday Showdown
(band competition)
Call 934-0484
2071 St. Catherine O.

DÉJA VU DISQUES
BUY & SELL USED
RECORDS, CASSETTES
MAGAZINES, VIDEO
486 St. Catherine O. 866-6016
Labyrinthe

Phonogram
RECORDS & TAPES
Visit Our Second Store At
5018 Sherbrooke W. at Claremont
3416 Park at Sherbrooke

LA CAVE DU DISQUE
DUTCHY'S
RECORD CAVE Ltd.
Ltée
BOUL. ST. LAURENT
ONTARIO
DUTCHY'S
1587 S. Laurent
DE MAISONNEUVE
METRO ST. LAURENT
STE CATHERINE
1587 ST-LAURENT
Montréal Qué. H2X 2S9
844-6208

Belt
BOUTIQUE
5711
SHERBROOKE WEST
MOD ... FUTURISM ... DESIGN ... ASSERTIVE